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To the State of California Water Resources Control Board;

RE: Bay/Delta Plan Update Hearing. December 20, 2016 Modesto, CA

As a person who has enjoyed the outdoors in the Central Valley since the 70's. I remember fishing in the Tuolumne River just downstream from 9th Street in Modesto for catfish on the north bank of the river. For bait, we would wade in the knee high river digging through the sand with our hands for clams and quickly fill our pockets with fresh clams. We would always catch catfish one after another. We would catch striped bass in the south bank of the river in just below Dennett dam. Twenty years later, I wanted to take my sons down to the river so they could experience the same fishing that I enjoyed when I was their age, and that was already ten years ago. Sadly, the clams were hard to find and the fishing holes were long gone. The striped bass were also no longer around. I also fished many times out of the Fox Grove fishing access catching several species of fish including a 5 lb. largemouth bass on one occasion. When I took my sons up there just a few years ago we could hardly catch a bluegill. The river level and flow was usually always the same with only small fluctuations following rains or the normal increased flows during the cold spring run-offs. *Though data logs may state otherwise.*

From spending a lifetime of fishing our local rivers, I have but a moment to submit that the water flows and temperatures were pretty much the same back then when I would witness hundreds of salmon passing over Dennett Dam in Modesto. So what was it that changed if the fish and salmon populations declined over the years without a significant change in water flows and temperature?

Please consider the following as possible root causes or alternative solutions to restoring our rivers, other than basing it on an assumption that releasing 40% more unimpaired water out into the ocean would bring back approximately 1,000 more salmon. If you want to improve something by 1,000%, it is easier to have 500 items improve by 2%, than it is to have 2 items improved by 500%.

- What impact has pollution been on these waters? The last time I fished the Stanislaus below Goodwin Dam I filled my back pack with trash left along the river's edge.
- What affect might poaching be? Never once was I checked by a Fish & Game Warden in all the years fishing, yet amongst all the trash I gathered were several empty worm cartons in an area restricted to using live bait. If those who fished illegally didn't care about using bait, they probably didn't care about catching/poaching salmon out of season. As part of all the scientific evidence that has been gathered to support increased water flows, is it known what impact an increase in Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel for enforcement and educational encounters could be on saving salmon and protecting our rivers ecosystem?
- What if we spent 70 million dollars on restoring habitat and spawning beds along our rivers? How much would that benefit the fish and wildlife and Delta ecosystem? How many extra Game Wardens could some of that money paid for?
- What about toxic chemicals? How much illegal waste from Methamphetamine labs has been dumped in these rivers? Have there been any studies to determine how exposure to waste

affects reproduction and health of the salmon. This should be a major concern that did not always exist.

- What about the impact of not controlling the water hyacinths and how does the lack of photosynthesis affect the food growth. I have noted over the recent years mats of water hyacinths that would cover several football fields, especially in the San Joaquin River. What studies have been done to consider the impact this has on fish moving both upstream and downstream? What impact would it make if we increased the number of crews trying to manage the Aquatic Weed Control Program? How about using inmate work crews to help with the process, has that been considered?
- Have you looked into the impact that predatory fish such as black bass and striped bass have on the parr or baby fish? Last time I caught a trout its stomach was filled with nearly a dozen babies. Trout fishing on these rivers have size and creel limits, with most places being catch and release only while a striped bass must be 18 inches to keep, and then it is only a limit of 2. Suppose we increase the fish limits or decrease the size restrictions, could this help the salmon while still maintaining adequate numbers of striped bass?
- A while back I was fishing for stripers on the Stanislaus out of the Oakdale Recreation area; I saw quite a few in the 14 to 16 inch range and do they move fast. I did not catch any stripers but I did catch several large carp and sucker using a 3 inch minnow imitation soft power bait lure, in smelt color, to the point where I gave up fishing for stripers. What impact do these so called trash fish have on eating the juvenile salmon?
- What would be the impact of a stronger current when tiny fish might try to swim upstream to elude being consumed by fish a thousand times its size and strength? How much more debris and snags might develop from increased flows causing the salmon running upstream to look for alternate routes? Or creating better hiding spaces for the predatory fish feasting on the fingerlings. *stress more and*
- What impact would increased flows and lower water temperatures have on recreational swimmers or those taking in a leisurely float trip? What is the scientific projection for increased drownings at the cost of hoping for an increase in salmon in the rivers when a much safer alternative would be to raise more salmon in the hatcheries or on farms?
- Please consider the numerous "non-flow" measures that should be taken to reach a reasonable win-win solution rather than causing a major negative impact to our communities. Thank you!

Jeff Fairbanks

Modesto, CA

Jefco5@sbcglobal.net